

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS**

**Advanced GCE**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**2719/RB**

Experience into Words

Thursday

**26 JANUARY 2006**

Afternoon

2 hours 15 minutes

**Reading Booklet**

**TIME** 2 hours + 15 minutes' reading time

- **The first fifteen minutes of the examination are for reading the passages in this reading booklet.**
- During this time you may make any annotations you choose on the passages themselves.
- The questions for this examination are given on a separate sheet.
- **You must not turn over the question sheet, or write anything in your answer booklet, until instructed to do so.**
- The Invigilator will tell you when the fifteen minutes begin and end.
- You will then be allowed to open the question paper.
- You will have **two hours** to work on the tasks.

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**This reading booklet consists of 4 printed pages.**

Passage A

The lyrics below were written by David McWilliams in 1967. They describe an experience of unemployment.

Through many a long.....

**An extract has been removed due to third party copyright restrictions**

Details:

An extract from 'Redundancy Blues' by David McWilliams, a song about becoming unemployed in 1967.

.....my troubles in drinking.

## Passage B

The passage below is an extract from *Down and Out in Paris and London* (1933) by George Orwell. He describes his own experience of being out of work.

One day my English lessons ceased abruptly. The weather was getting hot and one of my pupils, feeling too lazy to go on with his lessons, dismissed me. The other disappeared from his lodgings without notice, owing me twelve francs. I was left with only thirty centimes and no tobacco. For a day and a half I had nothing to eat or smoke, and then, too hungry to put it off any longer, I packed my remaining clothes into my suitcase and took them to the pawnshop ... 5

It was the first time that I had been in a French pawnshop. One went through grandiose stone portals (marked, of course, '*Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité*'<sup>1</sup> – they write that even over the police stations in France) into a large, bare room like a school classroom, with a counter and rows of benches. Forty or fifty people were waiting. One handed one's pledge over the counter and sat down. Presently, when the clerk had assessed its value he would call out, '*Numéro* such and such, will you take fifty francs?' Sometimes it was only fifteen francs, or ten, or five – whatever it was, the whole room knew it. As I came in the clerk called with an air of offence, '*Numéro 83* – here!' and gave a little whistle and a beckon, as though calling a dog. *Numéro 83* stepped to the counter; he was an old bearded man, with an overcoat buttoned up to the neck and frayed trouser-ends. Without a word the clerk shot the bundle across the counter – evidently it was worth nothing. It fell to the ground and came open, displaying four pairs of men's woollen pants. No one could help laughing. Poor *Numéro 83* gathered up his pants and shambled out, muttering to himself. 10 15

The clothes I was pawning, together with the suitcase, had cost over twenty pounds, and were in good condition. I thought they must be worth ten pounds, and a quarter of this (one expects quarter value at a pawnshop) was two hundred and fifty or three hundred francs. I waited without anxiety, expecting two hundred francs at the worst. 20

At last the clerk called my number: '*Numéro 97*!'

'Yes,' I said, standing up. 25

'Seventy francs?'

Seventy francs for ten pounds' worth of clothes! But it was no use arguing; I had seen someone else attempt to argue, and the clerk had instantly refused the pledge. I took the money and the pawnticket and walked out. I had now no clothes except what I stood up in – the coat badly out at the elbow – an overcoat, moderately pawnable, and one spare shirt. Afterwards, when it was too late, I learned that it was wiser to go to a pawnshop in the afternoon. The clerks are French, and, like most French people, are in a bad temper till they have eaten their lunch. 30

<sup>1</sup>'*Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité*': 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity' – the French national motto.

## Passage C

The passage below is an extract from a transcription of an interview with Dawn, a woman from South East England. She is in her mid-twenties. In the extract she describes her experience of some of her previous jobs.

The following key can be used as a guide:

- (.) – micro pause  
 \_\_\_\_\_ – stressed word or phrase

for i came ere i worked at the chip shop for six years n (.) had to serve the public n they were just horrible no (.) they were really common (.) it was fun (.) um (.) you got to know who the customers were (.) so you sort of became par t of their lives i suppose (.) n um what else did i like (.) yeh i ended up (.) over the years becomes more responsibility n then i ended up havin to help n stuff n then i just opened up (.) n then (.) my boss came in (.) got his money n then left (.) its all grew over the years (.) it wasnt somethin o by the way youve got t ave the keys would you do me a favour (.) no (.) was just you got extra cash at the end (.) like anyone else heres your extra twenty quid thanks for doin that favour for me (.) n it just was a favour for (.) for (.) over the year (.) it just got more of a favour n then it kind of become se ven days a week (.) n then i njoyed workin in bingo (.) i njoyed that   (.) it (.) it was less responsibility (.) erm (.) it was yeh meeting new people s same people for that length of time (.) erm but you had to be quiet (.) n i   wasnt very good at it you had to (.) well i started at half ten (.) um n then i had to (.) set up what i was doin while they played bingo for free ours (.) you ad to be quiet cos the people you work with cos they was around the same age as you as i am (.) they just pratted around (.) youve gotta set up like different rows where everyones sittin n (.) all of a sudden   one of em would go underneaf where the people were sittin n youd be walking up the chain t give em the money n theyd g\_rab your legs or somefink (.) n theyre playin bingo (.) it w asnt very good

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